

BICC has several objectives. The main objective is "Jobs for Minority People." The second, is to be a "Communication Path between the Various Communities in Greater Newark;" and, the meeting we have today is part of that. BICC has been unusually fortunate in obtaining speakers of distinction about current topics. Two examples will suffice: Last month we had a panel discussion about the Rahway riots; this month we have Imam Amiri Baraka (LeRoy Jones). A third objective of BICC is to be a "Catalyst and a Resource to Businesses about Affirmative Action Programs." This directly ties into the hiring of minorities. A fourth objective is "Training for Jobs," this also ties into the hiring of minorities. Overlaying all of these objectives is something that I have heard our Executive Director, Roland Stewart, state many times: "We are in the business of helping people live lives of dignity."

I have often heard that BICC, the Urban League, and the Urban Coalition have overlapping functions. A review of the three organizations shows that the overlap is, in my opinion, insignificant. The Urban League of Essex County functions in the fields of health, housing, welfare, employment and training, neighborhood counseling, community organizers, and education. The overlap is in employment, education and training. But, when one looks into the details of the League's education and training programs, he sees that the actions of the League compliment the actions of BICC; they do not overlap.

BICC's educational thrust has been to get the World of Work, more specifically--the World of Construction and the World of Manufacturing, into the junior high schools of the City of Newark. Today, BICC is in the process of acting as the catalyst in having developed and implemented in the city schools the World of Finance. The Urban League Education Program helps the BICC committees. So, we are left with one item of overlap: employment and training; and, as Marshall Wolf has stated many times, in a City with the high unemployment rate that the City of Newark experiences, there is a need for more attention to the hiring and training of minority people.

The Urban Coalition's objectives are to identify young citizens who display leadership qualities; to improve the communications and interactions between social agencies; to interpret and communicate the problems, fears, and aspirations of minorities; to increase the interactions between suburbanites and Newark residents around issues relating to the renewal of the inner-City; to continue to challenge, encourage and assist the agencies of Government and the private sector to be responsive to the needs of the poor; to develop a mechanism and resources for assisting associations of small merchants located in residential areas, and to continue, to a successful conclusion, the efforts to eliminate discrimination in the building trades unions. The last point is definitely an overlap. All three organizations, BICC, the Urban League, and the Urban Coalition, have been involved with the building trades unions in an effort to break down the discriminatory practices of the building trades unions. But instead of complaining about this overlap, I would hope that more agencies would join in this fight, because as of today the progress has been too slow.

I am not naive enough to believe that we have heard the end about the overlap of the three organizations, but I ask you to join me in telling the story about the three organizations.

I can think of another overlap; and, that is that the three top staff members of the organizations, Roland Stewart, Gustav Henningberg, and Earl Phillips, are leaders in the non-white community. I have referred to the panel that discussed the riots at Rahway; and, I believe that it is significant that Governor Cahill's office sought Earl Phillips, Roland Stewart, and Gustav Henningberg to help him. It is to the credit of the three men, and the other two gentlemen on the panel, that they were able to act as resource people and have a positive effect upon the thinking of the Governor and his Cabinet, resulting in the Rahway riots ending in a peaceful manner instead of an "Attica massacre." If someone believes that this is an overlap of functions, he should inform us who is the one person who can speak for the non-white community.

It goes without saying that I would not have accepted the post of Co-Chairman of BICC if I did not think that BICC can play a meaningful role in Newark.

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